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INFORMATION REPORT CD NO.

COUNTRY Ecuador

DATE DISTR. 26 January 1949

SUBJECT Establishment of Policia Motorizada de Transito

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SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

1. It has been ascertained that Major Leonidas Plaza Lasso, brother of President Calo Plaza Lasso, has formulated plans for the establishment of a new police force in Ecuador based on police systems in various states of the United States. The organization is tentatively called the "Policia Motorizada de Transito". Its publicly announced function is to provide police protection in the rural areas of the country. The present plan provides for a strongly armed mobile force of approximately 2,000 carefully selected officers and men. Major Plaza will be the Commanding General of the organization, which will be established as a separate entity under the Ministry of Government.
2. It is believed that the real purpose in establishing such a group is to have a well-trained force which would be completely loyal to the President and one which would be able to resist any political activities on the part of the Army or the Guardia Civil (National Police). However, the new police force would draw personnel from the Army and the Guardia Civil and would permit the President to reduce their size and effectiveness until there would be equality between the three forces. Major Plaza, in describing the organization, referred to it as "an elite force of the best obtainable personnel in Ecuador", which would be capable of handling all police problems and disorders throughout the country.

25X1A6a ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ It is doubtful that Plaza will be successful in creating such a police force at the expense of the Army and the Guardia Civil without incurring strong opposition from the latter.)

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